With the beginning of a new year, it is time to start planning for the upcoming growing season. Variety selection is likely the most important decision in the crop planning process. To aid in making these decisions, Monroe County CES is enclosing a copy of the Arkansas Rice Performance Trials from 2012 through 2014. This data includes information on yield, disease resistance, and milling ratings. Please review and use this information while making your variety decisions for the coming year.

2014 Arkansas Rice Performance Trials

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February 11, 2015 we will be having our Tri County Cotton meeting at the Lon Mann Experiment Station in Marianna starting at 8:00 am.

February 25, 2015 we will be having our Tri County Rice, Soybean and Feed Grains meeting at the Lon Mann Experiment station in Marianna starting at 8:00 am. We will have several of our Extension specialists on the program providing us with updates on developments in crop production. If you are a crop producer this is a meeting you should not miss! Speakers will include Dr. Jason Kelley, State Extension Corn Specialist, Dr. Jeremy Ross, State Extension Soybean Specialist.

March 5, 2015 we will be having our Area Vegetable Meeting at the Lon Mann Experiment Station in Marianna beginning at 8:00 am.

Pesticide Applicator Training

March 19, 2015 we will be having our second Pesticide Applicators Training. PAT will be given at the Monroe County Farm Bureau Conference Room on Hwy 79 East, Clarendon.

This training is for certification or recertification of Private Pesticide Applicators. If you need to be recertified you should have received a letter from the Arkansas State Plant Board stating your certification will soon expire. If you have questions about your certification, license statuses or pesticide regulations call the Arkansas State Plant Board Pesticide Division at 501-225-1598.
Pesticide Applicator Training cont’d

A Private Pesticide Applicator License is needed only for producers who purchase restricted use pesticides for crop or livestock operations. Those applying pesticides for hire need a commercial license available by contacting the Arkansas State Plant Board.

There is a fee of $10.00 to cover the cost of the training. This fee is for the training only. Make checks payable to the Monroe County Depository Account. An additional fee for the license will be collected by the Arkansas State Plant Board.

If you have any questions about the Pesticide Applicator Training, contact the Monroe County Cooperative Extension Office at 870-747-3397.

Rice DD50 Program

As we move onto into the planting season, remember to enroll your rice in the DD50 program for accurate planning of rice crop production activities.

I have enclosed Rice DD50 Cards for your use. Simply list the variety, acres, and emergence date for each field and mail or bring the card to the Extension office or call in the information to the office. You may also access the program by computer by logging on to http://dd50.uaex.edu/dd50Logon.asp. You can also find it at our website, UAEX.EDU, under Agriculture, Rice Computer Programs.

The DD50 program is top rated nationally for its accuracy in helping growers plan inputs in their rice crop. I hope you use the DD50 Program to help you in making your crop decisions. If you have any questions feel free to contact the Monroe County Extension Office at (870) 747-3397.

Six Farm Bill Webinars scheduled for January

The first in a series of Farm Bill webinars that will extend through March, each covering a different facet of law and its effects on farming in Arkansas, have been scheduled through the month of January.

The webinars will be hosted by experts from the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture and the Farm Service Agency and will run 20-30 minutes each and be followed by a Q&A. The webinars will help participants learn about Farm Service Agency, or FSA, Farm Bill programs and decisions specific to row crop production in Arkansas including:

- Base Acre Reallocation
- Yield updates
- Agricultural Risk Coverage, or ARC
Farm Bill Webinars cont’d

- Price Loss Coverage, PLC
- Supplemental Coverage Option, SCO
- Web-Based decision aids

The team of panelists includes: Tony Franco, chief, Farm Programs Division, FSA; Anita Wilson, agricultural program specialist, FSA; and Robert Coats, professor and extension economist for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture. Brad Watkins, professor and economist for the Division of Agriculture will be fielding questions in the Jan. 20 webinar about the web-based Farm Bill decision aid.

Learning more about ARC and PLC and other farm bill features is extremely important for row crop producers who must make a one-time decision about base and yield updates by Feb. 27, 2015, as well as ARC or PLC election by March 31, 2015, Coats said.

Those wishing to participate must register for each webinar. Upon registration, they will receive an email confirmation with the link to join the webinar and the system requirements for Zoom, the webinar software.

The webinar schedule:

Jan. 13, 9 a.m.: ARC/PLC Overview.
Registration link: https://uaex.zoom.us/webinar/register/b5788ad654b990aa7510d14dfe9e911

Jan. 14, 9 a.m.: ARC/PLC Yield Updates.
Registration link: https://uaex.zoom.us/webinar/register/f5d06d429a3c0aa5cde7dc3c8da9331e

Jan. 20, 9 a.m.: ARC/PLC Base Reallocations and web-based Farm Bill Decision Aid.
Registration link: https://uaex.zoom.us/webinar/register/2afe8cffe92080e134538d7d4481ef37

Jan. 22, 9 a.m.: Price Loss Coverage.
Registration link: https://uaex.zoom.us/webinar/register/bc20d3d579d0a2968c34be5db4a05ad8

Jan. 27, 9 a.m.: ARC - County Level.
Registration link: https://uaex.zoom.us/webinar/register/2fe879916bbcea97510d14dfe9e911

Jan. 29, 9 a.m.: ARC - Individual Level.
Registration link: https://uaex.zoom.us/webinar/register/6d02aed30be7c550cde7dc3c8da9331e

Schedules for February and March webinars are yet to be announced.

For more information about the Farm Bill series contact your county extension office or visit www.uaex.edu/farmbill.

“Learning more about ARC and PLC and other farm bill features is extremely important for row crop producers.”

The Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service is an equal opportunity/equal access/affirmative action institution. If you require a reasonable accommodation to participate or need materials in another format, please contact your County Extension office (or other appropriate office) as soon as possible. Dial 711 for Arkansas Relay.
Sincerely,

Van Banks
County Extension Agent -
Staff Chair

VB:bdc

The Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, disability, marital or veterans status, genetic information, or any other legally protected status, and is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

Rural Life Conference set for Feb. 27

The 59th annual Rural Life Conference will be Friday, Feb. 27, 2015, at the Pine Bluff Convention Center, One Convention Center Plaza in Pine Bluff. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. with the opening session at 8:45 a.m. The conference theme is “Innovations and Opportunities: Sustaining Farmers, Families and Communities.”

Sponsored by the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff School of Agriculture, Fisheries and Human Sciences, the 2015 conference will feature several theme-related workshops. It will also offer a poster session highlighting UAPB research projects and exhibits by governmental and community agencies. Researchers and agency representatives will be at their posters and exhibits during registration and during the break to answer questions.

Pre-event registration is requested of everyone even though the conference is free to farmers, ranchers, homemakers and retirees. Pre-event registration is $50 for professional and agency personnel and is $25 for students. After Feb. 13, late registration will be $75. To register in advance, or for more information, contact Margaret L. Taylor at 870-575-7144.